

DISTRIBUTED FILE SYSTEM  
INCLUDING MULTICAST RETRIEVAL

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A distributed file system intelligently allocates portions of a file system  
from a server to one or more clients on a network. File system data used during  
power-on of a client may be stored on the client. A retrieval of the file system  
may subsequently be made to the extent the client has capacity to store the file  
system. A multicast operation, performed as a background operation on the  
client, may be used to retrieve the file system. For portions of the file system  
not allocated to the client, the client may still access the file system from the  
10 server. Network bandwidth may thus be reduced and client access to the file  
system may generally be more efficient.